

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of December 11, 2008.

The Office Action objected to claim 4 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being unpatentable over Burris et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,533,165). Further, the Office Action rejected claim 3 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Burris. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as unpatentable over Burris in view of Adolphs et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,875). Further, claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Burris et al. in view of Rebsdorf (U.S. Patent No. 6,619,918).

In response to the objection of claim 4, Applicants have cancelled claim 4.

In response to the rejection of claims 1-10 under §112, second paragraph, Applicants have made appropriate amendments to claims 1, 3, and 5 clarifying the language and correcting the antecedent basis. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request to have the rejection withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 10 under §102(b) over Burris

Applicants respectfully state that Burris fails to anticipate claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 10. More specifically, the access cover (80) of Burris does not correspond to the sealing part of the present invention. The sealing part of the present invention consists of a sealing bag. *See* lines 1 through 12 on page 8 of the specification. Further, the sealing bag keeps the resin out of the cavity of the connector box during the manufacture and effectively protects the sensitive elements in the interior of the connector box. The protection provided by the sealing bag also

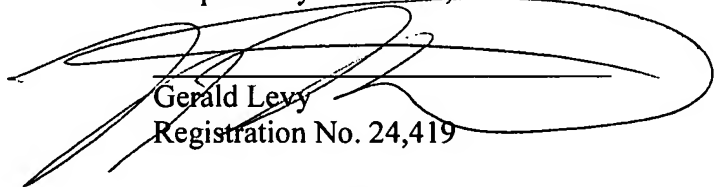
results in better finish when the bag is removed. See line 21, page 2 to line 25, page 3 and lines 1 through 24, page 8 of the specification. However, in Burris, resin may enter the cavity of the egress channel, which may have to be cut open and possibly result in damage to the cover and to the top surface. Further, the resin entering the cavity may also damage parts within the cavity. The sealing bag of the presently claimed invention overcomes these disadvantages of Burris. Applicants respectfully request to have the rejection withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 3, 9, 11, and 12 under §103(b) over Burris

As explained above, Burris fails to teach or disclose the sealing part of the presently claimed invention. None of the secondary references teach or disclose the missing element. Therefore, the combination of Burris and the secondary references fails to render the present invention *prima facie* obvious. Applicants respectfully request to have the rejection withdrawn.

Applicants do not believe that there are any fees due. However, if any additional fees are due, please charge such sums to our Deposit Account: 50-1145.

Respectfully submitted,



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